

To: Connecticut General Assembly
GAE Committee

Re: Proposed S.B. 560

I am submitting this written testimony in favor of S.B. 560 which is in reference to the removal of certain information from state websites. I also gave my verbal testimony at the public hearing.

I am a physician and was practicing in CT – and I was arrested on suspicion of illegal prescription writing. At the time the CT Dept. of Consumer Protection put out a press release which outlines the details of my arrest and the charges which were levied against me.

I went through the legal process and the result of it was that my case was dismissed and all charges were dropped. I was told that my record would read as if I had never been arrested. I currently have no criminal record, but when my name is searched on Google the press release of my arrest appears prominently on the first page of results. This has hindered my chances to be viewed fairly by both people in my professional and personal life. I wind up often being judged as guilty even though there wasn't even a trial and all charges were dismissed.

I have been trying for years to have this press release removed but the Dept. of Consumer Protection has told me there is no provision which allows them to remove it. I feel that the press release and Google discovery process is inherently unfair. Not every arrest is associated with a press release, and since I have a unique name it shows up prominently on the first page of a Google search even 7 years later. If I had a common name, this press release would have long been buried many pages into the search.

Also, if the CT legal system has deemed that I have no criminal record then this press release undermines the intent of the legal system and my ability to move forward in my life. Years ago, the legal decision to dismiss my case would have been enough to clear my record – but with the progression of technology and the way information is shared, I feel that the state removing press releases of persons arrest if they are cleared off all charges is just a natural modernization of what is intended by the law.

All I want to do is move forward with my life and be a productive member of society. I am sure I am not the only one who has been effected with similar circumstances. I feel this law will both help individuals and the state. I implore you to pass this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.